1. (Once Amended)   A method for indicating the status of a battery in a portable computing device, the method comprising:

retrieving battery status data from a basic input-output system (BIOS) on the computing device, the battery status data reflective of a characteristic of the battery;

comparing the retrieved battery status data to a predefined battery status threshold stored on the computing device; and

based on the comparison of the battery status data to the predefined battery status threshold, providing a battery status indicator to an applications program on the computing device for display via a user interface of the applications program.

5. (Once Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein providing the battery status indicator comprises providing a battery status indicator that causes a low battery alert to be displayed when the comparison indicates that the battery status data is less than the predefined status threshold.

8. (Once Amended)   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for indicating the status of a battery in a portable computing device, the method comprising:

retrieving battery status data from a basic input-output system (BIOS) on the computing device, the battery status data reflective of a characteristic of the battery;

comparing the retrieved battery status data to a predefined battery status threshold stored on the computing device; and

based on the comparison of the battery status data to the predefined battery status threshold, providing a battery status indicator to an applications program on the computing device for display via a user interface of the applications program.